Utilisation of Biomass Energy

1005. SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a publication entitled 'Biodiversity for Energy' brought out by the Indian Association for the Advancement of Science and the FAO;

(b) whether Government intend to utilise biomass energy as a central part of future sustainable energy supply which is environment-friendly and economically and technically feasible; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) and (c) Yes, Madam, the Government have taken up utilisation of variety of biomass materials through techno-economically feasible conversion routes for augmenting supply of energy for variety of applications in the country. The Government have taken steps to formulate National Programmes on Cogeneration of Energy from biomass (bagasse), Industrial Urban and Municipal Wastes, Biomass Briquetting and Biomass Gasification.

Production of Power from Sugar Mills

1006. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have launched a programme to produce 10 MW power each from about 400 sugar mills;

(b) whether the Ministry of Non-conventional Energy Sources has prepared any plan in this regard;

(c) if so, to what extent the Ministry has so far worked out the plans to produce power from Sugar Mills in the country; and

(d) what are the States where such plans will be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources had constituted a Task Force to assist in the formulation of a National Programme on Biomass based Cogeneration. The recommendations of the Task Force pertaining to bagasse based cogeneration in sugar mills were discussed in a National Workshop held recently. A National Programme is likely to be launched after detailed examination of the recommendations.

(d) Significant potential for bagasse based cogeneration is available in all the major sugar producing States such as Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu etc.

Wind Mills and Energy Generation

1007. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of wind mills that are at present in operation in the country;

(b) what is their aggregate cost and the quantum of energy they generate; and

(c) what is the cost of energy generated in this way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Over 400 wind electric generators ranging from unit size 55 KW to 300 KW are in operation at present in the country. The total installed capacity is 69 MW.